

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) An analytical test element for determining an analyte in a liquid, the test element comprising:

an inert carrier supporting an application zone for sample material;

a detection zone for determining the analyte;

a channel formed to transport liquid from the application zone to the detection zone; and

a hydrophobic structured surface formed in an area around the application zone, the hydrophobic structured surface comprising elevations and depressions, the height of the elevations ranging from about 50 nm to 100 μ m;

whereby, upon dosing of the test element, sample liquid is automatically guided towards the channel and is prevented from adhering to the hydrophobic structured surface formed in the area around the application zone.

23. (Previously Presented) The test element of claim 22, wherein the channel has an opening in the area of the application zone and the hydrophobic structured surface is positioned at least around the channel opening.

24. (Previously Presented) The test element of claim 22 wherein the channel is a capillary channel.

25. (Previously Presented) The test element of claim 22 wherein an interior of the channel has at least partially a hydrophilic surface.

26. (Currently Amended) The test element of claim 22 wherein ~~an average~~ the distance between elevations on the hydrophobic structured surface is about 50 nm to 200 μ m ~~and the average height of the elevations is about 50 nm to 100 μ m.~~

27. (Previously Presented) The test element of claim 22 wherein the hydrophobic structured surface has a surface energy of ≤ 20 mN/m.

28. (Previously Presented) The test element of claim 22 wherein the hydrophobic structured surface has a contact angle with aqueous systems of $\geq 120^\circ$.

29. (Previously Presented) The test element of claim 22 wherein the hydrophobic structured surface is immobilized on the test element.

30. (Previously Presented) The test element of claim 22 wherein the test element is designed to be held within a magazine.
31. (Previously Presented) The test element of claim 30 wherein the magazine is designed to hold both used and unused test elements.
32. (Previously Presented) The test element of claim 30 wherein the magazine is located within a measuring device.
33. (Previously Presented) The test element of claim 32 wherein the measuring device is an optical or electrochemical measuring device.
34. (Previously Presented) The test element of claim 22 wherein the test element is designed to be contained in a measuring device.
35. (Previously Presented) The test element of claim 34 wherein the measuring device is an optical or electrochemical measuring device.
36. (Previously Presented) The test element of claim 22 wherein the test element is formed for determining glucose in blood.
37. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a test element, the method comprising:
providing an inert carrier;
forming on the carrier an application zone for a sample material, a detection zone for determining an analyte in the sample material, and a channel formed to transport liquid from the application zone to the detection zone; and
forming a hydrophobic structured surface from a sprayed suspension of hydrophobic nanoparticles at least in an area around the application zone.
38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 37 wherein the hydrophobic surface is immobilized.
39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 37 wherein the forming step includes applying a hardenable substance to areas of the test element to be coated, applying hydrophobic, hydrophobized or hydrophobizable particles to the coated areas and immobilizing the particles by hardening.
40. (Currently Amended) A method for the determination of an analyte in a liquid, the method comprising:
applying a sample liquid to a test element having an inert carrier supporting an application zone for sample material, a detection zone for determining the analyte, and a channel formed to transport liquid from the application zone to the detection zone, wherein the test

element has a hydrophobic structured surface at least in an area around the application zone, the hydrophobic structured surface comprising elevations and depressions, the height of the elevations ranging from about 50 nm to 100 μ m; and

using the hydrophobic structured surface to guide the sample towards the channel while preventing the sample from adhering to the hydrophobic structured surface formed in the area around the channel; and

qualitatively determining the analyte present in the sample liquid.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 further comprising quantitatively determining the analyte present in the sample liquid.

42. (Currently Amended) A method for the determination of an analyte in a liquid, the method comprising:

applying a sample liquid to a test element having an inert carrier, an application zone for sample material, a detection zone for determining the analyte, and a channel formed to transport liquid from the application zone to the detection zone, wherein the test element has a hydrophobic structured surface at least in an area around the application zone, the hydrophobic structured surface comprising elevations and depressions, the height of the elevations ranging from about 50 nm to 100 μ m; and

using the hydrophobic structured surface to guide the sample towards the channel while preventing the sample from adhering to the hydrophobic structured surface formed in the area around the channel; and

quantitatively determining the analyte present in the sample liquid.